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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Group: 3613  
Confirmation No.:  
Application No.: 10/074,599  
Invention: ROPE LOCKING DEVICE WITH  
AUTOMATIC SAFETY  
MECHANISM  
Applicant: Brad E. Hossler  
Filed: February 13, 2002  
Attorney 29947/93100  
Docket:

Certificate Under 37 CFR 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail No. EL 990038823 US in an envelope addressed to Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA 22313

on March 8, 2004

  
Alice O. Martin  
35,601

**RECEIVED**

**MAR 12 2004**

**GROUP 3600**

**AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION MAILED OCTOBER 7, 2003**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed on October 7, 2003, applicants' request that the following amendments are entered and the following remarks are considered.

A petition for a two-month extension of time until March 7, 2004, is filed concurrently with the required fee.

**Amendments to the claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begin on page 2.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 4 of this response.